

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY DEBATE TEAM

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments of the debate team at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. Directed by Dr. Todd Graham, the team of Kevin Calderwood, a junior in political science from Chesterfield, MO, and Kyle Dennis, a senior in economics from Blue Springs, MO, won the national championship in the 54-team National Parliamentary Tournament of Excellence.

It is important to note that this was a very select competition. A team must qualify for the national championship tournament by doing well throughout the year. While only 54 teams competed, more than 300 attempted to qualify.

The debate program also entered teams in the National Parliamentary Debate Association tournament. That tournament is held at the end of March at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, and includes over 250 universities and colleges. Among the 500 debaters competing, Kevin won the top spot in the individual awards, solidifying his position as one of the best debaters in the country. Kyle took home third place overall in the individual awards.

In addition, the team of Katie Thomas, from Fort Collins, CO, and Adam Testerman, from Springfield, MO, won fifth place as a team overall. Also participating in the debate program was Nicholas Deml of La Crosse, WI. Graduate students Benjamin Haas, from Poplar Bluff, MO, and Brian Norcross from San Diego, CA, assisted Dr. Graham with team preparation.

Not surprisingly, the debate program's successes throughout the season resulted in a great deal of recognition from peers at other universities. Ryan Lawrence, a debater from the University of California at Berkeley and the top debater last year, commented to Dr. Graham that he would still hold his head high if beaten by Southern Illinois because he and his teammates considered it "the smartest, hardest-working and best debate team in the country."

Madam Speaker, Southern Illinois University has a proud tradition in teaching, research and public service. It is widely recognized that graduates who are well prepared become leaders in their fields. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the debate team, faculty and students at Southern Illinois University for their continuing commitment to excellence.

HONORING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BAYVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Bayview Elementary School in Fort Lauderdale, FL on its 50th An-

niversary. For the past 50 years, Bayview Elementary School has been providing students with the skills, knowledge, and preparation they need to succeed both inside and outside the classroom.

Instrumental to the success of Bayview Elementary is the hard work of the teachers, administrators, parents and other volunteers within the community who are committed to providing these children with a topnotch education. The faculty at Bayview truly cares for the well-being of their students, and their dedication to improving the quality of education in their classrooms will benefit these students for generations to come.

I would also like to recognize Ms. JoEllen Scott, the principal of Bayview Elementary School, whose hard work and excellent leadership have helped make this school the success it is today. I am confident that Bayview Elementary School will continue to produce well-rounded and motivated students for the next 50 years and beyond.

DEACON ASPINWALL

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Deacon Aspinwall who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Deacon Aspinwall is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Deacon Aspinwall is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Deacon Aspinwall for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his college career and future accomplishments.

VIRGINIA TECH MASSACRE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, today marks the 1 year anniversary of the Virginia Tech massacre. One year ago, students on the campus woke up and went to class. It was another seemingly ordinary day. But a mentally-ill coward, hungry for control and infamy, followed through on his premeditated rampage.

On April 16, 2007, there were two separate attacks, 2 hours apart on the campus of Virginia Tech. The murderer, Seung-Hui Cho, killed 32 people and wounded many.

The first attack occurred at West Ambler Johnston Hall. Cho entered the co-ed dormitory, home to 894 students, at 7 a.m. Fifteen minutes later, he murdered two victims

before returning to his dorm room. Nearly 2 hours later, Cho went to a post office to mail writings and video footage to NBC News. He was sure to inform the press because he wanted the infamy and power. This coward carried chains, locks, a hammer, a knife, two guns, nineteen 10- and 15-round magazines, and almost 400 rounds of ammunition. He was on a murderous mission.

Two hours after his first killings, Cho continued his murder spree at Norris Hall. He chained the three main entrance doors shut, placed a note on the doors that said if the door was opened a bomb would explode, and then went up to the second floor to begin the massacre. Cho peeked into the classroom twice, to view his prey. He entered Professor G.V. Loganathan's classroom, killing the professor and then killing 9 of the 13 students. Two other students were injured and only 2 students survived unharmed. Cho then walked across the hall to Christopher James Bishop's classroom where he killed Bishop and 4 other students. Cho wounded 6 others. Cho continued down Norris Hall, shooting students and professors. He returned to the classrooms several times. Cho's spree continued for 10 to 12 minutes. He fired at least 174 rounds.

The 2 hour murderous massacre taught us that universities must have a coordinated, quick system to notify students, staff, and the entire university community of a pending danger. I'm an original cosponsor on the Virginia Tech Victims Campus Emergency Response Policy and Notification Act, which would require universities to notify students and employees within 30 minutes after campus security or law enforcement determines that an emergency exists on campus. It is unfortunate that it took a tragedy to teach us this lesson.

This country continues to mourn the lives of the 32 victims from Virginia Tech. We will never forget them. And that's just the way it is.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 147, 153, 154, 155, 164, 165, 174, 178, 179, and 181 I am not recorded because I was absent due to illness.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

IN HONOR OF THE SPELLING CHAMPIONS OF THE MULTI-REGIONAL STATE SPELLING BEE

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 17, 2008

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, last month, students from all over Minnesota met at the St. Cloud Holiday Inn Hotel and Suites to compete for the honor of traveling to Washington in May for the Scripps National Spelling Bee. I commend all of the students who participated for their extraordinary commitment to academics and their brilliance and poise under pressure.